**‘The future of SI and systems research in the One CGIAR’**

Africa RISING team

16-17 and 20 July 2020 [to be confirmed]

**Logistics**

1. Dates/times: 16, 17, and 20 July; each time 15:00 – 18:00 EAT [to be confirmed]

2. Link: [add link]

**Introduction**

The future of Africa RISING beyond Sept 2021 was raised during a number of recent PCTs and calls. Major points raised include:

**1. PCT 38:**

* BV: How will Africa RISING fit within the changes in the CGIAR coming into effect in 2022? Are we considering another phase?
* PT: AR phase II finishes on paper in September 2021, but there may be a no cost extension considering the time frames for the release of funds.
* PT: The question about whether there is a next phase in the horizon for Africa RISING has also come up during the ICER.

**2. PCT 39:**

* JG: Above topic would best be discussed as a focus of physical PCT meeting. Other additional topics that would also be useful to discuss during the meeting could be: (1) Systems research within the ONE CGIAR reform process – Excellence in Agronomy? (is it a big enough “Big Lift” for “systems research”) – What is the AR perspective/definition of systems research; (2) Livelihood analysis of AR communities (IFPRI working on this); (3) Advancement of SIAF—how to improve and advance its use; (4) Re-direction of AR strategy?; (5) Refocus on USAID mission communication & needs; (6) Increased support for regional agriculture innovation systems (e.g., CORAF iREACH); (7) Much greater focus on synthesizing, evaluating, and communicating findings; (8) Capturing impact of innovations; and (9) “Exit” strategy for Africa RISING?

**3. PCT 40:**

* JG: There is a need to work out some of the larger issues about the program, its medium-longer term future. For example, with the Excellence in Agronomy initiative, which is moving along rapidly and we need to somehow place Africa RISING within it or on one side of it conceptually.

**4. Meeting of 30 June:**

* JG: I would like to see a discussion about how we can further clarify and be more specific on the work going forward (in AR) and what the deliverables are. In part because we would like to see this taken up more through a common research & development agenda with other donors and in part to relieve the management burden.
* JG: It may not be the case that AR ends in 2021. It may be the case that we need to continue some of the activities, but perhaps in a more focused manner while the larger One CGIAR effort is stood up.

**Objectives**

1. To reflect on the possible role of systems research in the One CGIAR and how this could be accommodated in the context of the ‘global research domains’ and ‘regional integrated programs’

2. To reflect on the future of Africa RISING beyond September 2021 in the context of the One CGIAR, in terms of its research agenda, funding mechanisms, and other relevant dimensions

3. To agree on existing and yet-to-be-produced legacy products of AR in above context

4. To suggest options to use 2021 to streamline AR activities towards integration in the One CGIAR as per above suggestions

**Draft agenda** *[Note: Proposed times are* ***East Africa time****]*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **From** | **To** | **Activity** | **Lead/facilitated by** |
| **Thursday, 16 July [to be confirmed] – Systems research in the CGIAR** | | | |
| 15:00 | 15:30 | Presentation: Status of the discussion around the research agenda of the ‘One CGIAR’ | Iain |
| 15:30 | 16:00 | Presentation: Status of conceptualization of systems research in AR | Jerry, Peter |
| 16:00 | 17:00 | Discussion: Agreement on essential components of systems research and how to document this (with examples) | Bernard |
| 17:00 | 18:00 | Discussion: Possible routes for integrating systems research in the One CGIAR (recognizing many uncertainties) | Jerry |
| **Friday, 17 July [to be confirmed] – AR in the One CGIAR – options and scenarios** | | | |
| 15:00 | 15:30 | Presentation: Initiatives being developed for the ‘One CGIAR’ research agenda – Excellence in Agronomy 2030 | Bernard |
| 15:30 | 16:00 | Presentation: Initiatives being developed for the ‘One CGIAR’ research agenda – Transforming Livestock food systems | Boni |
| 16:00 | 16:30 | Presentation: Initiatives being developed for the ‘One CGIAR’ research agenda – other? | Iain |
| 16:30 | 17:15 | Discussion: Scenarios for integration AR in the ‘One CGIAR’ | Iain |
| 17:15 | 18:00 | Discussion: Key modalities for retaining an AR ‘brand’ in the ‘One CGIAR’ | Jerry |
| **Monday, 20 July [to be confirmed] – AR legacy projects and re-shaping towards the One CGIAR** | | | |
| 15:00 | 15:30 | Presentation: Key legacy products of AR and how to get these integrated in the ‘One CGIAR’ | Irmgard, Peter, Carlo |
| 15:30 | 16:00 | Discussion: Key legacy products of AR and how to get these integrated in the ‘One CGIAR’ (with action plan) | Irmgard |
| 16:00 | 16:30 | Presentation: Possible priorities for 2021 in view of earlier discussions towards integrating AR in the ‘One CGIAR’ |  |
| 16:30 | 17:30 | Discussion: Possible priorities for 2021 in view of earlier discussions towards integrating AR in the ‘One CGIAR’ |  |
| 17:30 | 18:00 | Wrap-up and way forward | Boni |